



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare

OF THE

Borough of Taunton.

For the Year 1935.

TAUNTON:

H. G. MOUNTER AND CO., LTD.,

PRINTERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.



∴ Annual Report ∴

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare

OF THE

Borough of Taunton.

For the Year 1935.



Public Health Department,
St. Paul's House, Park Street,
Taunton.

6th June, 1936.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Taunton.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the work of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Departments for the year 1935. This is compiled so as to comply with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

The population at the middle of the year was estimated by the Registrar General to be 26,790, an increase of 240 on the previous year. The death rate is unchanged, while the birth rate shows a slight reduction.

As regards Infectious Diseases, Measles was epidemic in the autumn and Diphtheria was unduly prevalent throughout the year.

The Maternity and Child Welfare service was extended to include the provision of a trained midwife for all confinements, the provision of an obstetric consultant for difficult cases, the provision of Home Helps and Dental Treatment.

The duty of Slum Clearance is proceeding, and by the end of the year about half of the original list of unfit houses had been represented.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare and Health Committee for their interest and support, and to the Borough Treasurer, the Borough Surveyor and the Waterworks Engineer for information supplied and to the Staff of these Departments for their ready co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ALLEN,

*Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer and
Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare.*

HEALTH COMMITTEE.*Chairman*—Alderman A. J. West, J.P.

The Mayor, Alderman Lane, J.P.	Councillor Keynton
Councillor Bradbury	Councillor Loveys
Councillor Clode	Councillor Stainer
Councillor Down	Councillor Southwood
Councillor Goodland, J.P.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Consists of the Health Committee with the following additional members :—

Alderman F. W. Penny, J.P.

Councillor L. C. Barker.

Dr. W. B. Winckworth Representing the Medical Profession.

Mrs. Fowler 	} Representing	Taunton Infant Health Society.
Mrs. Adams 		
Mrs. Webber 		
Mrs. May 	} Representing	Working Women's Organisations.
Mrs. Channon 		

STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health	} John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
*Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and ..	
*School Medical Officer ..	

*Medical Officer to Ante-Natal Clinic Mrs. Marie Ellis, M.D.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector ..	{ E. C. Farr, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.A. (SCOT.), M.R.S.I.
---------------------------------	---

*Sanitary Inspector (No. 1 District)—P. J. Gough, C.R.S.I.,

*Health Visitor Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

Chief Clerk G. J. A. Wilkinson.

Clerk M. E. Chalk.

*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants or under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1935.

General.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,434
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...					26,790
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	7,214
Rateable Value (end of 1935)	...	...	...	...	...	£201,472
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£765

VITAL STATISTICS:

	M.	F.	Total	
Live births—legitimate	157	173	230	
„ „ illegitimate	8	6	14	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 12.8
	165	179	344	
	M.	F.	Total	
Still Births—legitimate	5	6	11	
„ „ illegitimate	1	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ... 36.4
	6	7	13	
Deaths, after correction for transfers:	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 12.2
	150	179	329	
Death Rate, after correction by factor 0.87	...	...	...	10.6
Deaths from Puerperal causes:				
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 2.8
Other Puerperal causes	...	1		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—				
All Infants per 1,000 live Births	...	...	...	46.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births	...	...	...	45.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births	...	...	...	71.4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.4
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—
Death Rate from Cancer	...	...	...	1.5

IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1935.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.7
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	57.0

FOR SMALLER TOWNS.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.8
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	55.0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

A full description of these was given on pages 8, 9 and 10 of my Report for the year 1930, and of alterations to certain of these on page 7 of my Report for the year 1934.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A full description of the provisions made for this purpose was given on page 20 of my Report for 1931. In 1934, as a result of Circular 1433, a Special Report was made, and this was given on pages 16 and 17 of my Report for the year 1934. As a result of this Report extensions and improvements were made as follows :—

The Provision of a trained Midwife for all Confinements.

Arrangements were made to provide this on application being made, and payment of the whole or part of the cost was made for 10 cases.

The Provision of Maternity Beds for (a) Complicated cases and (b) those with unsuitable homes.

Complicated cases are admitted to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, while those with unsuitable homes are admitted to the Maternity Home if application is made.

The Provision of facilities for adequate isolation and separate nursing of cases of Puerperal Sepsis.

So far there is no provision for cases of Puerperal Sepsis, but I understand that beds are to be available for this in a new block to be built by the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia have been admitted to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

The Provision of a Consultant for difficult or complicated cases.

A scheme has been approved whereby members of the Honorary Medical and Surgical Staff of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital are considered as consultants for this purpose. Application for this is made to me by the Medical Practitioner attending, but in cases of extreme urgency application may be made direct to the Consultant chosen and information sent to me as soon as possible afterwards.

Four applications were made for this service during the year.

The Provision of Dental Treatment.

A scheme was developed whereby the School Dental Officer and his nurse attended the Dental Clinic at intervals of 14 days and on the same day as the Ante-Natal Clinic so that mothers attending the latter could be referred at once for examination and treatment. Arrangements were also made for the treatment of infants at the same time. This scheme commenced on the 17th April and by the end of August nine sessions had been held. It was then reported that out of 19 expectant mothers recommended to attend by the Ante-Natal Medical Officer only nine had attended, and that eight of those had failed to keep further appointments made for them. As regards the attendance of infants, eleven had been given first treatment and eight had attended for further treatment.

It was then decided to reduce the number of sessions held and to hold these at intervals of 28 days and still to correspond with meetings of the Ante-Natal Clinic, and to continue this for a period of four months.

At the end of four months, and during ten sessions, the total number of expectant mothers treated numbered 10, with 17 attendances, and the total number of infants treated 23 with 34 attendances. It was then with reluctance that I advised that the scheme for the dental treatment of expectant mothers and infants should be stopped.

The Provision of Home Helps.

Arrangements have been made whereby suitable approved women would be provided to undertake the usual household duties while the mother is incapacitated during pregnancy or confinement.

In such cases a certificate is obtained from the medical practitioner attending, especially when this service is required during pregnancy. This service was provided in two cases—in one for a period of over 4 weeks and in the other for a period of over 5 weeks.

Births.

The number notified to me under the Notification of Births Acts was 355; this included 15 still births.

Infant Mortality.

There were 16 deaths of infants under 1 year of age. One of these was illegitimate.

About one-third of these were due to premature birth, while the prevalence of Epidemic Disease is reflected in the death of two from Measles and one from Whooping Cough.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 46.5, which is less than the corresponding figure of 55 for the Small Towns in England and Wales.

Maternity Home.

The number of cases admitted was 106 and the average duration of stay was 14.04 days. There were no maternal deaths, and no cases of Puerperal Pyrexia or Puerperal Fever. Two of the confinements resulted in still born infants and two infants died within 10 days of birth as the result of congenital defects.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

This is open on Tuesdays from 2—4 p.m., and on Fridays for one hour from 11 a.m. A special session is also held for free milk cases on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. at intervals of 28 days. The total number of consultations was 2,276, and of these 1,423 were under 1 year of age.

The attendances for consultation numbered:—

	Tuesday.		Friday.		Total
	No.	Average per session.	No.	Average per session.	
Sessions held ...	60		42		102
Total consultations ...	1772	29.32	504	12.0	2276
New cases only ...	143	2.23	36	.85	179

The ages of the infants brought for consultation were:—

Age.	Total.	New cases only.
Under 1 month ...	43	40
Between 1 month and 1 year ...	1,380	104
Between 1 year and 2 years ...	506	23
Between 2 years and 3 years ...	290	8
Between 3 years and 4 years ...	46	2
Between 4 years and 5 years ...	11	2

Two ladies have continued to attend with marked regularity to weigh the infants and assist with the records. Their help has been most valuable.

The Infant Health Society, under the capable direction of Mrs. Fowler, has been of great help by varied activities such as the sale of dried milk and other foods, a sewing class, the

provision of tea and organisation of outings, and, I am glad to say, the giving of short lectures by persons specially qualified to speak on their particular subjects.

The work of the Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor devotes the whole of her time to duties in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare.

During 1935 she paid 4,007 visits to homes as follows:—

First Visits.		Re-Visits.	
Under 1 year ...	334	Under 1 year ...	1,343
Ante-Natal cases	54	Between 1 and 2 years	955
Still births ...	7	Between 2 and 3 years	762
Other Visits ...	42	Between 3 and 5 years	404
		Ante-Natal cases ...	106
	<u>437</u>		<u>3,570</u>

The Ante-Natal Clinic.

The number of sessions held was 26 and the total number of attendances by expectant mothers was 531.

The total number of expectant mothers who attended during the year was 152, so that approximately 42.8% of the mothers who were confined during the year attended for examination.

Dr. Marie Ellis reports that 144 new cases were seen during the year. Those needing ante-natal treatment were as follows:—

Albuminuria	...	...	3
Eclampsia	...	...	1
Pyelitis	...	...	1
Disproportion	...	...	4
Hæmorrhage	...	...	1
Varicosities	...	...	1

So few made use of the dental clinic that the scheme was abandoned. Patients are prepared to make arrangements for confinement and submit to examination much earlier than before.

Orthopædic Treatment.

Twenty-one infants received treatment at the Orthopædic Clinic and one of these was sent to the Bath and Wessex Children's Orthopædic Hospital at Bath for in-patient treatment.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

The alteration whereby this is now open only during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May has proved satisfactory, and I believe that greater benefit is derived from three attendances a week.

The number of sessions held was 94, and the total attendances of all children and infants numbered 2,238, of which 1,299 were made by infants. Each infant attending is examined by me at intervals of 28 days.

Cases attending for treatment were as follows:—

Disease or Defect.		No. of Cases.	Average No. of doses per case.	Results.
Rickets	...	28	36.6 for 20 cases.	Eight cases ceased to attend after insufficient treatment. The others all showed marked improvement.
General Debility	...	5	27.2	All showed improvement. Six others were still under treatment at the end of the year.
Skin Diseases	...	5	24.4	Four cases cured, and one no improvement after 14 doses.
Chilblains	...	1	24	Cured.

Foster Children.

The number of children on the register at the beginning of the year was 11 and at the end of the year was 16. It was found necessary to take formal proceedings against one foster mother under Section 65 (1) of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, for failing to give notice that she had received an infant under 9 years for reward. The Justices found the case proved and fined the defendant £1.

All foster children are under the supervision of the Health Visitor until they become 5 years of age, when they pass under the care of the School Nurses until they are 9 years of age.

Provision of Free Milk.

Milk is provided by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders, in the quantity of one pint per day to:—

- (1) Mothers in the last three months of pregnancy;
- (2) Nursing mothers;
- (3) Infants under three years of age;

where after inquiry the total income of the family is found to be under a certain amount per head after deduction of rent.

These orders for free milk are given after a signed and authenticated application is received, for a period not exceeding 28 days. The order is renewed for periods of 28 days if a further application be made, and there is no change in the circumstances of the applicant. It is also a necessary condition that all infants receiving free milk be brought for examination to the Infant Welfare Centre. In order to avoid overcrowding and delay a special morning session of the Infant Welfare Centre is held on the days when these applications are dealt with.

The approximate amount of milk supplied to applicants for free milk was 18,739 pints, at a cost of £253. The number of families supplied was 98.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1935.

CAUSE.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth	4	1	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Defects	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Accident	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	7	2	1	—	10	3	1	1	1	16

Illegitimate

1.

Coroner's Inq.+

Inq.—

Legitimate 15.

11

1

**ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH
UNDER 15 YEARS IN 1935.**

Age.	MALE.		FEMALE.		Total.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
Under one day ..	1	—	3	—	4
1 day and under 1 week	1	—	2	—	3
1 week and under 4 weeks	2	—	1	—	3
1 month and under 3 months	1	—	2	—	3
3 months and under 6 months	—	—	—	1	1
6 months and under 9 months	—	—	1	—	1
9 months and under 12 months	1	—	—	—	1
1 year and under 2 years	—	—	1	—	1
2 years and under 3 years	1	—	1	—	2
3 years and under 4 years	2	—	—	—	2
4 years and under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—
5 years and under 10 years	1	—	2	—	3
10 years and under 15 years	1	—	—	—	1
	11	—	13	1	25

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The rainfall on the watershed was considerably in excess of the average for the past ten years and the supply was continuous throughout the year. The supply was therefore satisfactory in quantity.

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination at the rate of two sets per month or 24 series in the year. Each series included (1) the raw water, (2) water at the filter beds after filtration and chlorination, (3) water from a main tap in the town.

Of the 24 sets taken all except five showed an absence of *B. coli* in 50 c.c. in water from the main tap. The samples which were unsatisfactory were as follows:—

Date taken.		Result.
17. 6.35	...	<i>B. coli</i> present in 10 c.c.
9. 7.35	...	<i>B. coli</i> present in 30 c.c.
24. 7.35	...	<i>B. coli</i> present in 30 c.c.
7.10.35	...	<i>B. coli</i> present in 30 c.c.
5.11.35	...	<i>B. coli</i> present in 30 c.c.

From these it would appear that the water was not entirely satisfactory in quality, and these results should not be obtainable in an efficiently chlorinated water.

Closet Accommodation.

Except in a few outlying parts of the town all the closets are on the water carriage system, but many of the older houses in addition to those due to be dealt with in Slum Clearance Areas still have no separate water closet, and depend for this service upon one between several houses. This condition is most unsatisfactory.

Refuse Collection.

There is, except during certain holiday periods, a twice weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the town.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, came into force on the 30th December, 1934. This contains (1) provisions for regulating the hours of employment of young persons in shops and retail places, and (2) securing improved arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers generally.

As the Sanitary Authority you are responsible for supervising the second part, which includes:—

- (1) The provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.
- (2) The provision of suitable and sufficient ventilation.
- (3) Means to maintain a reasonable temperature.
- (4) Suitable and sufficient lighting.
- (5) Suitable and sufficient washing facilities.
- (6) Suitable facilities for taking meals.

I regret that preoccupation of the Sanitary Inspectors with other duties, particularly Slum Clearance, has rendered it impossible for them to make any methodical survey of the premises coming within the scope of the Act.

Smoke Abatement.

There is little or no need for any action in this direction owing to the paucity of mill chimneys in the town.

Swimming Baths.

There is only one swimming bath in the town. This is owned by the Taunton Corporation. Water in it is treated by an efficient filtration and chlorinating plant. Visits are made by me to test the amount of free chlorine present in the water which is maintained at 0.5 part of chlorine per million parts of water. I have found the Chlorotex Testing Outfit of the British Drug Houses Ltd. to be the most delicate test for this purpose.

Schools.

There are fourteen public elementary schools and these were all inspected during the year.

With the exception of two older schools built in the ecclesiastical style where there is a lack of adequate light and proper ventilation, their condition was satisfactory.

The persistence of the trough closet in three schools is a very distinct anomaly in an educational institution. All the schools have a supply of town's water but proper facilities for drinking it, such as a modern drinking fountain, are lacking in several schools.

The re-housing of the school population at the periphery of the town, following on Slum Clearance, and the position of the older schools in the centre of the town is giving rise to considerable problems.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

Power to deal with this problem in an effective way was given for the first time by the Housing Act, 1930. As it has never been possible to carry out a proper survey of the houses in the town and no records of the unfit houses were available, a rapid survey was made and it appeared as a result of this that there were at least 624 unfit houses, with a population of 2,105, which required demolition. In accordance with Circular 1138 these were to be dealt with during a period of ten years.

A commencement was made in 1931, and I made my first official representation of a Clearance Area on 30.3.31.

Under this scheme 109 houses in six Clearance Areas, with a population of 409, were officially represented by the end of 1932. The issue of Circular 1331 in April, 1933, with the reduction of the period of Slum Clearance to five years, made it necessary to re-survey the problem, and as a result it appeared in September, 1933, that there remained approximately 598 unfit houses, with a population of 1,873, to be dealt with. The position at the end of 1935 was as follows:—

No. of unfit houses represented in defined Clearance Areas ...	294	Population 925
No. of unfit houses to be dealt with	322	Population 980

I hope that it may be possible with the provision of more staff to considerably increase the rate of progress in 1936.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	486
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	630
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	230
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	384

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	188
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	118
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	92
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
A. Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	16
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
C. Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(1a) Undertakings accepted in lieu thereof	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Milk Supply.

The number of premises registered for the sale of milk in the Borough is as follows:—

Premises.	In Borough.	Out of Borough.	Total.
Wholesale distributor only ...	1	—	1
Producer only	2	—	2
Producer and Retailer ...	7	19	26
Retailer only	28	7	35
Totals only ...	38	26	64

There are also two persons registered as selling milk in sealed bottles only.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Two of the various grades of milk were procurable. These were:—"Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)" from a source in the Bridgwater Rural District through twelve retailers; and "Pasteurised", produced by two firms:—

The Taunton Co-operative & Industrial Society, Ltd.,
and Messrs. Thorns Dairies Ltd.

As you are responsible for the issue of licences for the production of pasteurised milk, frequent visits were made to the premises where this milk is produced, and samples were taken at intervals of approximately one month. These were sent to the County Analyst for examination, and for the last two months included an examination for the presence of Phosphatase. This enzyme is present in raw milk but is destroyed by heating at 145°F. for 30 minutes. This test serves as a very useful check on the efficiency of the process of pasteurization, and also to discover the possibility of any milk being added which has not been pasteurized.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are eleven slaughter-houses in the Borough. Seven of these are registered and four are licensed for periods of twelve months.

A very large part of the time of the two Sanitary Inspectors is occupied in the inspection of meat prepared in these slaughter-houses, part of which is exported to other areas.

The fact that constant vigilance in the inspection of meat is needed is shewn by the discovery of unsound meat on the premises of two butchers by the Sanitary Inspectors. Proceedings were taken against these and fines imposed.

Ice Cream.

Powers were obtained in the Taunton Corporation Act, 1931, to require the registration of persons manufacturing or selling ice cream, and of the premises where it is made or sold; also to require the notification of infectious disease among persons residing on the premises. Every dealer in ice cream is also required to have his name and address legibly painted on the vehicle from which it is sold. Visits are paid to all such premises as frequently as possible.

It should be understood that there is no legal standard for ice cream, and the nature of this compound is likely to vary considerably.

Adulteration.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts and other Acts of a similar purpose are administered by the Somerset County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Specimens for either chemical or bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Analyst of the Somerset County Council at the County Hall, Taunton.

Nutrition.

I regret that pressure of other work has rendered it impossible to undertake any lectures on this subject during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles become epidemic in September and continued during the last quarter of the year. This disease now appears to recur at intervals of two and a half years and this outbreak was expected.

The usual measures to cope with it were taken. These included the engagement of a special Nurse to visit the homes and nurse cases requiring it. There were three deaths; in two of these the parents had refused the assistance of the Nurse, and in the other, which was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, death resulted from Pneumococcal Meningitis. The epidemic continued until the end of March, 1936.

Diphtheria was more prevalent than usual. It has not been possible to carry out a scheme of immunization against this disease, and I have now grave doubts if this would be successful as a public health measure, for if the numbers immunized are not large, there is the possibility of the immunized child carrying the disease while not incapacitated by it, and so spreading the infection widely among the non-immunized.

Prevention of Blindness.—Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 66.

I have not advised any action under this Section.

Tuberculosis (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under these Regulations (*e.g.*, of a person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade), nor has it been necessary to take any action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, whereby you have power to require the removal to hospital of a person suffering from tuberculosis.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case of this disease was notified. It was a very mild case and made a complete recovery without any obvious impairment of vision.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1935

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1935.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
10—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	1	3	1	—	1	2	—	—
25—	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
35—	4	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
45—	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	12	11	5	4	7	4	—	—

Notification had not been made in respect of one of the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1935.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1935.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	248
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	12
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	12
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	8
Stables and manure receptacles	...	...	...	...	47
Infectious diseases, in connection with	...	...	...	...	185
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1,232
Foodshops (including Markets)	...	...	...	...	321
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	486
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	67
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	719
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	337
Drainwork, in connection with	...	...	...	...	237
Smoke visits and observations	...	...	...	...	3
Visits in connection with Rats and Mice Destruction Acts	...	...	...	...	7
Visits to verminous premises	...	...	...	...	49
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	19
In connection with Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	...	3

Work done.

Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous rooms cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	...	139
Animals removed, improperly kept	...	...	...	...	1
Removals of refuse and manure	...	...	...	...	7
Houses cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness excluded	...	...	...	...	9

Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
„ shutes and gutters cleared, repaired or renewed						12
„ windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ troughs and waste-pipes repaired and renewed						23
„ washcoppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ walls repaired and replastered	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ grates and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ skirtings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings and walls whitened and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	21
New troughs provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Means of heating provided to shops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation provided and improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ cleared and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ exposed for examination	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ unchoked	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilated food-stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Samples of drinking water taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of Milk, "Grade A (T.T.)," taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	9
Samples of Milk, "Grade A," taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of Pasteurised Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	8
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli						11
Interviews with owners or agents	...	...	...	...	...	201
Removals of furniture for disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	131
„ „ „ statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	26

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	35
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	185
" " " " " destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	84
Verminous articles of bedding and clothing disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	23

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Notices received under Article 8, Public Health (Meat)						
Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	101
Notices received under Article 8, para. 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	2
Notices received under Article 9, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	200
Visits made to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,232
" " " foodshops, including markets	...	...	...	...	...	321
Number of formal seizures of foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of condemnations	...	...	...	...	...	5,538

Classification of Diseases.**GENERALISED TUBERCULOSIS :—****Carcases :**

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	82

LOCALISED TUBERCULOSIS :—**Part carcasses condemned, including heads and offals :**

(a) In bovines	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) In swine	...	...	...	...	...	4,628

Weight of tuberculous meat condemned :

30 tons, 12 cwts., 13 lbs.

OTHER DISEASES :—

(Hydraemia, Septicaemia, Pyaemia, Inflammation, etc.)

	Carcases.					Part Carcasses.
Beef	5	20
Mutton	10	56
Pork	27	673
Veal	—	4

Weight of same: 4 tons, 8 cwts., 3 qtrs., 7 lbs.

Other Foods condemned.

Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...	13 „
Cooked ham	...	...	...	...	...	28 „
Tinned ham	...	...	...	...	...	155 „
„ tongue	...	...	...	...	...	10 „
Frozen ox-breads	...	...	...	...	...	164 „
„ ox kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	17 „
„ lambs' livers	...	...	...	...	...	70 „
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Lobsters	...	...	...	...	...	9 „
Escallops	...	...	...	...	...	108 (number)
Prawns	...	...	...	...	...	42 „
Chocolate Easter Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	4 „

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned:

35 tons, 5 cwts., 2 qrs., 27 lbs.

Number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year:

Bullocks	...	...	...	...	1,057
Calves	...	...	...	...	347
Sheep	...	...	...	...	4,961
Pigs	...	...	...	...	21,531
					<u>27,896</u>

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	17	2	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	10	3	—
Total	31	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	7	7	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Total	9	9	—	—

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

The observations below are recorded at the Municipal Buildings and Vivary Park.

The daily rainfall and the total rainfall for the year were sent to the British Rainfall Association, Air Ministry, London, S.W. Weekly reports on the rainfall and sunshine were also supplied to the local press.

The highest observed reading of the Barometer during the year was 30.67 on 20th January at 9 a.m., whilst the lowest was 28.67 on 25th February at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 83° on 24th and 25th June. The lowest was 17° on 31st December.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 24th June and 1st July, and the value for those days was 70.0. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 21st December, when 23.5 was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.3°, as compared with 50.6° for 1934.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine for any one day was 15.5 hours recorded on 6th July.

July was the sunniest month with 275.5 hours of bright sunshine, as compared with 298.75 hours in July, 1934, and 259.00 hours in July, 1933. July was also the warmest month, and December the coldest. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1,612.75 hours, as compared with 1,687.00 hours in 1934 and 1,778.75 hours in 1933. There were 53 sunless days, compared with 59 in 1934 and 56 in 1933.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day, *i.e.*, 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 0.79 inches on 30th November, as compared with 0.83 inches on 28th December, 1934, and 1.13 inches on 25th February, 1933.

November was the wettest month with 5.845 inches of rain, December coming next with 4.27 inches, whilst January was the driest with 0.8 inches. Rain fell on 191 days, and the total rainfall for the year was 33.535 inches, as compared with 26.755 inches for 1934 with 173 wet days, and 24.605 inches for 1933 with 149 wet days for the same year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. FARR,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1935.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.		
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.4 or more
January	30.58	30.67	29.50	42.1°	55°	26°	42.0	11	0.80	7	4
February	29.71	30.31	28.67	43.9°	55°	23°	67.75	7	2.88	21	12
March	30.10	30.60	29.32	43.8°	60°	22°	127.5	2	1.27	10	8
April	29.76	30.27	29.30	47.9°	61°	31°	137.25	—	4.245	21	17
May	30.02	30.40	29.74	50.4°	73°	29°	173.75	4	1.29	12	7
June	29.83	30.38	29.40	58.5°	83°	35°	215.0	3	2.97	16	14
July	30.10	30.28	29.56	63.8°	81°	41°	275.5	—	.835	6	4
August	29.96	30.37	29.43	62.0°	82°	42°	217.00	1	1.500	11	10
September	29.83	30.18	29.27	57.9°	70°	34°	144.5	2	3.55	22	17
October	29.80	30.33	29.06	51.1°	62°	34°	94.75	3	4.06	21	16
November	29.61	30.13	29.16	43.5°	60°	21°	74.5	8	5.845	23	17
December	29.57	30.40	29.00	38.8°	52°	17°	43.25	12	4.27	21	18
	29.91			50.3			1612.75	53	33.535	191	144



